

CLAIMS:

1. A method for training others in use of an expert system protocol to treat patients afflicted with soft tissue lesions, said method comprising the steps of: training others to display apparatus including a plurality of indicia each representative of a symptom pattern image showing a portion of human anatomy and an expert-derived symptom pattern superposed on said portion of human anatomy, wherein said expert-derived symptom pattern includes an area on said portion of human anatomy where soft tissue lesions produce symptoms selected from the group consisting of numbness, tingling, pain, ache, burning, weakness, atrophy, circulatory changes, hypersensitivity, restricted motion, and combinations thereof; training others to match a patient's symptoms to at least one of said symptom pattern images; training others to associate said at least one of said symptom pattern images with a corresponding expert treatment protocol; and training others to use said expert treatment protocol to diagnose and treat a soft tissue lesion in said patient.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of training others to use said expert treatment protocol consists essentially of training others to manually manipulate an anatomical area of said patient without surgical treatment to excise said soft tissue lesion, said anatomical area of said patient corresponding to said expert-derived symptom pattern.

3. The method as set forth in claim 2 wherein said step of training others to manually manipulate said anatomical area of said patient consists essentially of training others to move said anatomical area of said patient while holding a portion of said anatomical area of said patient in tension at a contact point which causes tissues underlying said contact point to pass longitudinally beneath said contact point with respect to fibers in said tissues.

4. The method as set forth in claim 3 wherein said step of training others to move said anatomical area includes training for active movement of said anatomical area by said patient.

5. The method as set forth in claim 3 wherein said step of training others to move said anatomical area includes training others for passive movement of said anatomical area by a person treating said patient.

6. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of training others to use said expert treatment protocol includes training others to consult an anatomical diagram found in indicia representative of said treatment protocol to visualize tissues underlying said anatomical area for determination of a proper contact point facilitating longitudinal motion beneath said contact point.

7. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of training others to use said expert treatment protocol includes training others to diagnose said soft tissue lesion by feeling it after treatment has begun according to said protocol, in order to provide a diagnosis of a condition in said patient.

8. The method as set forth in claim 7 wherein said step of training others to diagnose includes training to confirm said diagnosis by checking said diagnosis against an expert diagnosis.

9. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of training others to use said expert treatment protocol includes training to check for assurance of an adequate selection in said at least one of said symptom pattern charts through reproduction of symptoms in said group.

10. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of training others to use said expert treatment protocol includes training others to follow pictorial indicia representative of said treatment protocol being implemented on another patient.

11. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of training others to use using said expert treatment protocol includes training others to follow additional treatment protocols in a cross reference list of related treatment protocols associated with said at least one of said symptom pattern charts.

12. The method as set forth in claim 9 wherein said cross reference list is found on indicia representative of said treatment protocol.

13. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said cross reference list is found on at least one of said symptom pattern charts.

14. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of training others to use said expert treatment protocol includes training others to use said expert treatment protocol prior to diagnosing said soft tissue lesion.

15. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of training others to associate said at least one of said symptom pattern charts includes training others to identify an identifier associated with said at least one of said symptom pattern charts to an identical identifier associated with said expert treatment protocol.

16. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of training other to match said patient's symptom pattern includes training others to select said at least one of said symptom pattern charts as one depicting said expert-derived symptom pattern.

17. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of training others to obtain a plurality of indicia includes having an expert in the nonsurgical treatment of soft tissue lesions provide said expert-derived symptom pattern on said anatomical image.